

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/553,118

Confirmation No. 1727

Applicant: Shinohara et al.

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Examiner: Thaian N. Ton

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Customer No.: 23460

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated December 5, 2008, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.